

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY
February 2, 2020
11:00 A.M.

Together in Christ, Reaching Beyond Our Doors.

GATHERING TO PRAISE

PRELUDE "Impromptu in A-Flat" Schubert
"Partita in B-Flat" Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*PASSING CHRIST'S PEACE TO ONE ANOTHER

This is God's house – a place of peace where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. Greet those around you as a sign of God's peace and Christ's friendship.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The invitation is given to every person by Jesus Christ:
"Come to me! Follow me! Be my disciples!"

All: So we've come here, now, at the invitation of Jesus the Christ.

One: In the spirit of Christ this hour,

All: We will look for God's Spirit of wisdom to break into our thinking.

One: In the name of Christ this hour,

All: We can open ourselves to full-throated praise of God.

One: In the midst of a world where cruelty abounds,

All: We will proclaim the God of Compassion.

One: In the midst of despair that threatens to swallow up
whole lives and whole peoples,

All: We dare proclaim the God of Hope who provokes us to act.

One: And even where the world is stuck in the quicksand of indifference and apathy,

All: We here merge our best aspirations with the God of Love.

One: So come, let us worship together, fully present,
And bear witness to God's living presence in the world.

*HYMN OF PRAISE "This is My Father's World" No. 144

A TIME TO CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN

"Where Children Belong" (congregation sings)

***This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng.
Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.***

CONNECTING WITH GOD IN PRAYER

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of holy wisdom,
we are seekers on the way to a deeper wisdom and a wider vision.
Our lives are full of information and opinions,
but in the midst of it all we long to hear the voice of wisdom –

Your wisdom, God –
cutting through the noise and teaching us how to live in ways that bless the whole human family.

God, we have come here this morning to learn wisdom from your Word,
from your Holy Spirit, and from one another.

We have come so that wisdom may call us out of the darkness
and into the light.

We have come to have the deeper, richer, wisdom-filled life
that you have promised to each of us.

We have come to seek something better for all that is broken in the world.

**ALL: O God, Provoke us to not just hear, but to listen for the Words spoken to our hearts this morning. Call us to hear your wisdom that might bless the whole human family, and grant us the courage to respond.
Together we pray as you taught your disciples to pray...**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

No. 895

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Here's One"

arr. Mark Hayes

soprano saxophone: Peter Deneen

Talk about a child who do love Jesus, Here's one, here's one. Ever since I heard the gospel story, I've been walking up the road to glory. Talk about a child who do love Jesus, Here's one, here's one. Talk about a child who's been forgiven, Here's one, here's one. Talk about a child who's been converted, Here's one, here's one.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 3: 2-6

(NT p. 180)

Key verse: "...Our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit."

Leader: The Word of God. **All: For the People of God.** Leader: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Making Decisions that Matter— February Sermon Series:

"Beyond Absolutes"

BRINGING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

CELEBRATING HOLY COMMUNION

(see below)

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Come forward as directed, where you will be given a piece of bread which you may dip in the cup (gluten-free bread is also available). Please let an usher know if you cannot come forward so the elements can be brought to you. **During this time you are invited to bring your offering forward to the plates available on the chancel.** Today our Stephen Ministers will be positioned in the back of the sanctuary to offer prayer with those so desiring, and to mark your hand with anointing balm if you would like.*

*DOXOLOGY

No. 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise
the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Creator God, we have tasted again of your goodness. Now let your Son be the center of our lives, where your Spirit binds us to you and to one another. Thank you for this circular wonder, where your giving prompts us to give back. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN

"O For a World"

(see below)

*BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Lord, Let Us Now Depart in Peace" Maurice Whitney

*POSTLUDE "Spinning Song" Mendelssohn

*You are invited to remain seated for the postlude as part of your worship experience.
(If you choose to exit the sanctuary during the postlude, please do so quietly. Thank you.)*

**All who are comfortable standing are invited to stand.*

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It right to give our thanks and praise.

God, you are before all things;
You are beyond all things;
And in the midst of all things and all peoples
you have made yourself known.

In Israel's ancient codes and prophetic oracles,
in stories of women and men,
of communities and nations
seeking identity,
feeling their strength,
and struggling with their weakness
you have made yourself known.

In Jesus of Nazareth,
in compassion for the outcast,
forgiveness for the fallen,

hope for the poor and hungry;
in his life poured out for others
and broken in rejection and disdain
you have made yourself known.

Therefore we join our praises
with countless men and women before us,
disciples and apostles,
saints and martyrs,
acclaiming your power in goodness
and your might in compassion,
as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We greet the one who comes in your name,
your true light, your true love,
the bread of compassion,
the wine of renewal.

As he broke bread before the brokenness of his death,
as he poured out wine before his blood was poured out on the cross,
as he gave his life in acts of goodness,
as he invited all to the feast of new hope,
so come to us, God of Jesus, in your love.

Come to us, Spirit of our Lord of love,
and let the bread and wine before us
bear your life to our life,
nourish us with his vision of hope,
and unite us in one body of peace.

Nourish us with your brokenness,
Renew us with your poured out life,
Empower us with your powerlessness,
that we may take root in your risen life
and bear fruit in your world.

**You are our life;
You are our hope;
You are our peace;
And we praise you. Amen.**

Words of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Music During Communion

(8:15)

(11:00)

Hillar Bergman, violin

Bach

Chopin

"Sarabande"

"Etude"

Davis Morganstern, organ

O for a World

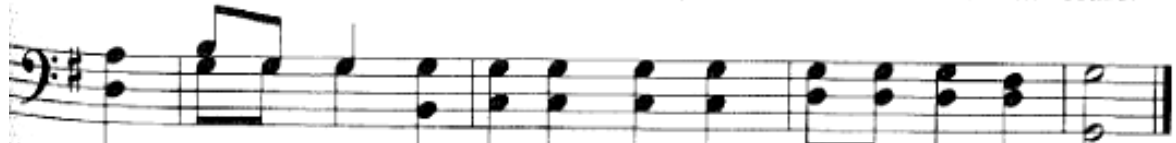
372



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich; the weak are strong; the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



Everything longed for in this text is a reminder of how far our present world is from what God wants. Yet this is not just wishful thinking; it is a call to action, a summons to participate in the fulfillment of God's desire for all earth's people to live in radical *shalom*.